

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Claims 12 and 13 have been added.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A closed level control system for a vehicle having a vehicle body, vehicle axles and pressurized medium chambers with which the vehicle body is suspended relative to corresponding ones of said vehicle axles, the closed level control system comprising:

pressurized medium supply vessel means having first and second pressurized medium spaces for holding a medium under pressure as a pressurized medium;

said first and second pressurized medium spaces having no direct connection therebetween;

a compressor for transferring said pressurized medium between said pressurized medium supply vessel means and said pressurized medium chambers;

said compressor having an input and an output; first and second controllable directional valves and each one of said valves having at least two switching states; and,

said first controllable directional valve being switchable to connect either said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, said second pressurized medium space to either said compressor input or, alternatively, to said compressor

output so that pressurized medium from said pressurized medium chambers can be either transferred into said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, into said second pressurized medium space or pressurized medium can be transferred from either 25 said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, from said second pressurized medium space to said pressurized medium chambers;

30       a third controllable directional valve interposed between said first controllable directional valve and said pressurized medium spaces and said third controllable directional valve likewise having at least two switching states comprising a first and a second switching state;

35       said third controllable directional valve being switched into said first switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable direction valve to said first pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said second pressurized medium space; and,

40       said third controllable directional valve being switched into said second switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable directional valve to said second pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said first pressurized medium space.

2. (Currently Amended) A closed level control system for a vehicle having a vehicle body, vehicle axles and pressurized medium chambers with which the vehicle body is suspended relative to corresponding ones of said vehicle axles, the closed level 5 control system comprising:

pressurized medium supply vessel means having first and second pressurized medium spaces for holding a medium under pressure as a pressurized medium;

10 said first and second pressurized medium spaces having no direct connection therebetween;

a compressor for transferring said pressurized medium between said pressurized medium supply vessel means and said pressurized medium chambers;

15 said compressor having an input and an output; first and second controllable directional valves and each one of said valves having at least two switching states comprising a first and a second switching state; and,

20 said first controllable directional valve being switchable to connect either said first pressurized medium space or said second pressurized medium space to said compressor input or to said compressor output so that pressurized medium from said pressurized medium chambers can be transferred into said first pressurized medium space or into said second pressurized medium space or pressurized medium from said first pressurized medium space or from said second pressurized medium space can be transferred to said pressurized medium chambers,

25 wherein said pressurized medium is pressurized air and said system further comprising comprises:

30 a first pressurized air line connecting said first controllable directional valve to said input of said compressor;

a second pressurized air line connecting said output of said compressor to said second controllable directional valve;

a third pressurized air line connecting said input of said

compressor to said second controllable directional valve;

35           a fourth pressurized air line connecting said output of said compressor to said first controllable directional valve;  
              said pressurized medium chambers being connected to said second controllable directional valve;

              said first pressurized air line being switched through by  
40        said first controllable directional valve in a said first switching state and said second pressurized air line being switched through by said second controllable directional valve in a said first switching state and said fourth pressurized air line being blocked by said first controllable directional valve in  
45        said first switching state and said third pressurized air line being blocked by said second controllable directional valve in said first switching state when pressurized air is transferred from one of said first and second pressurized medium spaces into one of said pressurized medium chambers;

50           said third pressurized medium air line being switched through by said second controllable directional valve in a second switch switching state and said first pressurized air line being switched through by said first controllable directional valve in a second switching state and said first pressurized air line being blocked by said first controllable directional valve and said second pressurized air line being blocked by said second controllable directional valve in a second switching state wherein pressurized air is transferred from one of said pressurized medium chambers into one of said first and second pressurized medium spaces;

60           a third controllable directional valve interposed between

65        said first controllable directional valve and said pressurized medium spaces and said third controllable directional valve likewise having at least two switching states comprising a first and a second switching state;

70        said third controllable directional valve being switched into [[a]] said first switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable direction valve to said first pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said second pressurized medium space; and,

75        said third controllable directional valve being switched into a said second switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable directional valve to said second pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said first pressurized medium space.

3. (Original) The closed level control system of claim 2, wherein said first pressurized air line and said third pressurized air line conjointly define a common connecting point; and, wherein said closed level control system further comprises:

5            a first check valve mounted in said first pressurized air line between said common connecting point and said first controllable directional valve and said first check valve being disposed so as to be open toward said input of said compressor; and,

10          a second check valve mounted in said third pressurized air line between said common connecting point and said second controllable directional valve and said second check valve being open toward said input of said compressor.

4. (Currently Amended) The closed level control system of claim 1, wherein said first and second pressurized medium spaces of said pressurized medium supply vessel means are separate first and second pressurized medium supply vessels.

5. (Original) The closed level control system of claim 1, wherein said first and second pressurized medium spaces have different pressure levels.

6. (Previously Presented) The closed level control system of claim 1, wherein the pressure in at least one of said first and second pressurized medium spaces is greater than the maximum actual compression end pressure of said compressor.

7. (Previously Presented) The closed level control system of claim 1, further comprising an additional air line connected into a pressurized air line of said system to facilitate control of an external apparatus utilizing the pressure in at least one of said 5 first and second pressurized medium spaces; and, the residual pressure in the other one of said pressurized medium spaces being available to execute a level change of said level control system directly after an external control operations.

8. (Original) The closed level control system of claim 7, wherein said external apparatus is a tire inflating device.

9. (Original) The closed level control system of claim 2,

further comprising:

an air dryer mounted in said fourth pressurized air line;

an intake valve switchable between a base position wherein

5 no throughflow is permitted and a switched position wherein  
throughflow is permitted;

an intake line ending at said intake valve and connecting  
said input of said compressor to the atmosphere when said intake  
valve is in said switched position;

10 a discharge valve switchable between a base position wherein  
no throughflow is permitted and a switched position wherein  
throughflow is permitted;

a discharge line branching off from said fourth pressurized  
air line at a branch point between said output of said compressor  
15 and said air dryer and ending at said discharge valve; and,

said pressurized medium supply vessel means being  
connectable to the atmosphere via said air dryer and said  
discharge line when said discharge valve is in said switched  
position.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the level of a vehicle with a closed level control system, the vehicle having a vehicle body, vehicle axles and pressurized medium chambers with which the vehicle body is suspended relative to corresponding  
5 ones of said vehicle axles, the closed level control system including: pressurized medium supply vessel means having first and second pressurized medium spaces for holding a medium under pressure as a pressurized medium; said first and second pressurized medium spaces having no direct connection

10 therebetween; a compressor for transferring said pressurized medium between said pressurized medium supply vessel means and said pressurized medium chambers; said compressor having an input and an output; first and second controllable directional valves and each one of said valves having at least two switching states;

15 ~~and,~~ said first controllable directional valve being switchable to connect either said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, said second pressurized medium space to either said compressor input or, alternatively, to said compressor output so that pressurized medium from said pressurized medium

20 chambers can be either transferred into said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, into said second pressurized medium space or pressurized medium can be transferred either from said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, from said second pressurized medium space to said pressurized medium

25 chambers; a third controllable directional valve interposed between said first controllable directional valve and said pressurized medium spaces and said third controllable directional valve likewise having at least two switching states comprising a first and a second switching state; said third controllable directional valve being switched into a first switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable direction valve to said first pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said second pressurized medium space; and, said third controllable directional valve being switched into said second switching state to provide a connection from said first controllable directional valve to said second pressurized medium space and to block a connection to said first pressurized medium

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space; the method comprising the step of:

utilizing said compressor to fill said first and second  
40 pressurized medium spaces by transferring pressurized medium from  
said pressurized medium chambers into said pressurized medium  
spaces with said pressurized medium spaces having a pressure  
greater than the actual compression end pressure of said  
compressor.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, comprising  
the further steps of:

providing an air dryer in an air line connecting said output  
of said compressor to said first controllable directional valve;  
5 transferring pressurized medium from said air dryer into the  
first pressurized medium space or into the second pressurized  
medium space with the pressurized medium space being at a  
pressure higher than the actual compression end pressure of said  
compressor allowing for a sequential transfer of pressurized  
medium; and,

utilizing said compressor to draw pressurized medium from  
the second or the first pressurized medium space, which is not to  
be filled, and to transfer the pressurized medium into said air  
dryer when either the first or, alternatively, the second  
15 pressurized medium space is not connected to said air dryer or no  
pressurized medium from said air dryer is transferred into the  
first or the second pressurized medium space.

12. (New) The closed level control system of claim 1, wherein  
both said first and second pressurized medium spaces can serve as

high-pressure medium spaces.

13. (New) A closed level control system for a vehicle having a vehicle body, vehicle axles and pressurized medium chambers with which the vehicle body is suspended relative to corresponding ones of said vehicle axles, the closed level control system comprising:

pressurized medium supply vessel means having first and second pressurized medium spaces for holding a medium under pressure as a pressurized medium;

said first and second pressurized medium spaces having no direct connection therebetween;

a compressor for transferring said pressurized medium between said pressurized medium supply vessel means and said pressurized medium chambers;

said compressor having an input and an output;

first and second controllable directional valves and each one of said valves having at least two switching states; and,

said first controllable directional valve being switchable to connect either said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, said second pressurized medium space to either said compressor input or, alternatively, to said compressor output so that pressurized medium from said pressurized medium chambers can be either transferred into said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, into said second pressurized medium space or pressurized medium can be transferred from either said first pressurized medium space or, alternatively, from said second pressurized medium space to said pressurized medium

chamber, wherein said first and second medium supply vessels are connected to said compressor only in the alternative.